Message Text

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O 142000Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 0211
USINT HAVANA NIACT IMMEDIATE

CONFIDENTIAL KINGSTON 2566

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC, CPAS, CGEN, ASEC, PINS, CU, CA, JM SUBJECT: MOVEMENT OF AMCIT FUGITIVES

REFERENCE: HAVANA 653 AND PREVIOUS

1. DCM AND CONSULAR OFFICERS CALLED THIS MORNING ON NEVILLE

GIBBS, PERMANENT SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF NATIONAL SECURITY, TO DISCUSS MOVEMENT OF FUGITIVES RECOMMENDED IN HAVANA 653, OBTAIN JAMAICAN COOPERATION IN THE OPERATION, AND WORK OUT SUITABLE SCENARIO HERE IN KINGSTON. AT SAME TIME EMBOFF INFORMED MFA PERMSEC FRANK FRANCIS OF SITUATION.

2. JAMAICANS ARE WILLING TO COOPERATE ALONG LINES OF REFTEL, WILL PROVIDE SURVEILLANCE SUPPORT AT AIRPORT, WILL ADMIT FUGITIVES INTO JAMAICA THROUGH IMMIGRATION. SUBJECT TO ROUTINE FLIGHT CLEARANCE, JAMAICANS ARE AGREEABLE TO USE OF USG-CHARTERED AIRCRAFT TO TRANSPORT FUGITIVES FROM KINGSTON TO U.S. IF DEPARTMENT AND HAVANA SEE NO OBJECTION, PROPOSED SCENARIO WOULD BE AS FOLLOWS: USG-CHARTERED AIRCRAFT ARRIVES BEFORE SCHEDULED 1650 ARRIVAL OF CUBANA AIRLINES FLT. 457 ON MARCH 16. AGENTS REMAIN ON AIRCRAFT. WHEN THE CUBANA FLIGHT ARRIVES, JAMAICAN IMMIGRATION OFFICER AND EMBASSY CONFIDENTIAL.

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CONSULAR OFFICER MEET AIRPLANE, COLLECT DOCUMENTS, AND ESCORT FUGIVITES TO AIRPORT TRANSIT LOUNGE. IMMIGRATION OFFICER FORMALLY ADMITS FUGITIVES INTO JAMAICA. AS SOON AS POSSIBLE THEREAFTER, IMMIGRATION OFFICER AND CONSULAR OFFICER ESCORT FUGITIVES TO CHARTER AIRCRAFT AND ASSIST THEM IN BOARDING. JAMAICAN SPECIAL BRANCH POLICE WILL BE ON HAND BUT WILL REMAIN IN BACKGROUND. JAMAICANS AGREE

THAT OPERATION SHOULD BE GIVEN NO REPEAT NO PUBLICITY.

3. DEPT. AND HAVANA ARE OF COURSE AWARE THAT IF PROPOSED TRANSFER MISFIRES BECAUSE ONE OR MORE FUGITIVES REQUEST POLITICAL ASYLUM OR OTHERWISE ATTEMPT TO REMAIN IN JAMAICA, NOT ONLY A BROAD RANGE OF U.S. OBJECTIVES HERE IN JAMAICA BUT ANY SIMILAR MOVEMENTS IN FUTURE WOULD BE SERIOUSLY JEOPARDIZED. EMBASSY HAS STRESSED THAT FUGITIVES ARE LEAVING CUBA VOLUNTARILY, BUT HAS ALSO POINTED OUT THAT WE CANNOT GUARANTEE WILLINGNESS OF FUGITIVES TO MOVE ON TO U.S. WHILE EMBASSY REALIZES THESE CONSIDERATIONS WILL BE WEIGHED CAREFULLY IN DECIDING WHETHER TO GO AHEAD WITH MOVEMENT OF FUGITIVES THROUGH JAMAICA, EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE ANY ADDITIONAL ASSURANCES HAVANA CAN PROVIDE OF FUGITIVES' WILLINGNESS TO RETURN TO U.S. AND WILLINGNESS TO TRAVEL ABOARD A USG-CHARTERED AIRCRAFT. PLEASE ADVISE.

4. FOR HAVANA: PLEASE PROVIDE ASAP FULL NAMES OF FUGITIVES AND NATURE OF DOCUMENTATION THEY WILL CARRY. FUGITIVES SHOULD COMPLETE IMMIGRATION ENTRY AND EXIT CARDS PRIOR TO ARRIVAL.

5. FOR DEPT: PLEASE PROVIDE ETA IN KINGSTON OF CHARTERED AIRCRAFT, TAIL NUMBER AND OTHER INFORMATION REQUIRED TO OBTAIN FLIGHT CLEARANCE FROM JAMAICAN CONFIDENTIAL

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